Terms of reference of review Committee on POTA

2859. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Committee to review implementation of the Prevention of Terrorist Act, 2002 has been set up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the personnel, terms of reference and time-frame fixed for giving findings and suggesting to check any misuse of various provisions of the POTA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The Central Government has constituted a Review Committee headed by Mr. Justice Arun B. Saharya (Retd.) Chief Justice of High Court of Punjab and Haryana, and Shri M.U. Rehman, IAS(Retd.), former Secretary to the Government of India, and Shri Arvind S. Inamdar, IPS(Retd.), former Advisor to the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, as its Members. The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:

(i) the Review Committee shall take a comprehensive view of the use of the said Act in various State and shall be empowered to entertain complaints or grievances with regard to enforcement of the said Act and accordingly, give its findings and suggestions for removing the shortcomings, if any, in the implementation of the said Act; and

(ii) the Review Committee shall suggest measures to ensure that the provisions of the said Act are invoked for combating terrorism only.

The Review Committee has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on 4.4.2003.

Rape of Dalit/Adivasi women

2860. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in every two minutes a rape of a dalit or adivasi woman is committed; and

(b) the role of police in violence against women, children and weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir. As reported by National Crime Records Bureau, on an average, 4 cases of rape per day were committed against SC and ST women in 2001.

(b) 'Police' and 'Police Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of the criminal justice system, more particularly, to ensure prevention of crime against SCs, STs, women and other vulnerable sections of society.

Deployment of army near LoC

2861. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering deployment and special recruitment of Army, BSF along the border area of Jammu and Kashmir *i.e.* within 5 kms. of LoC in view of the hardships being faced by the poor villagers especially farmers who are unable to cultivate their land due to cross border firing and militancy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Army have informed that while adequate measures have been taken to thwart Pak designs through deployment of our forces and suitable retaliatory responses, civilians living in close proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K continue to be subjected to a great deal of hardship and suffering due to Pak firing.

The Army is considering plans to raise Territorial Army battalions through recruitment mainly from border areas in J&K with a view to provide an avenue of occupation and income to the locals, as also to maintain vigil on the border/LoC.